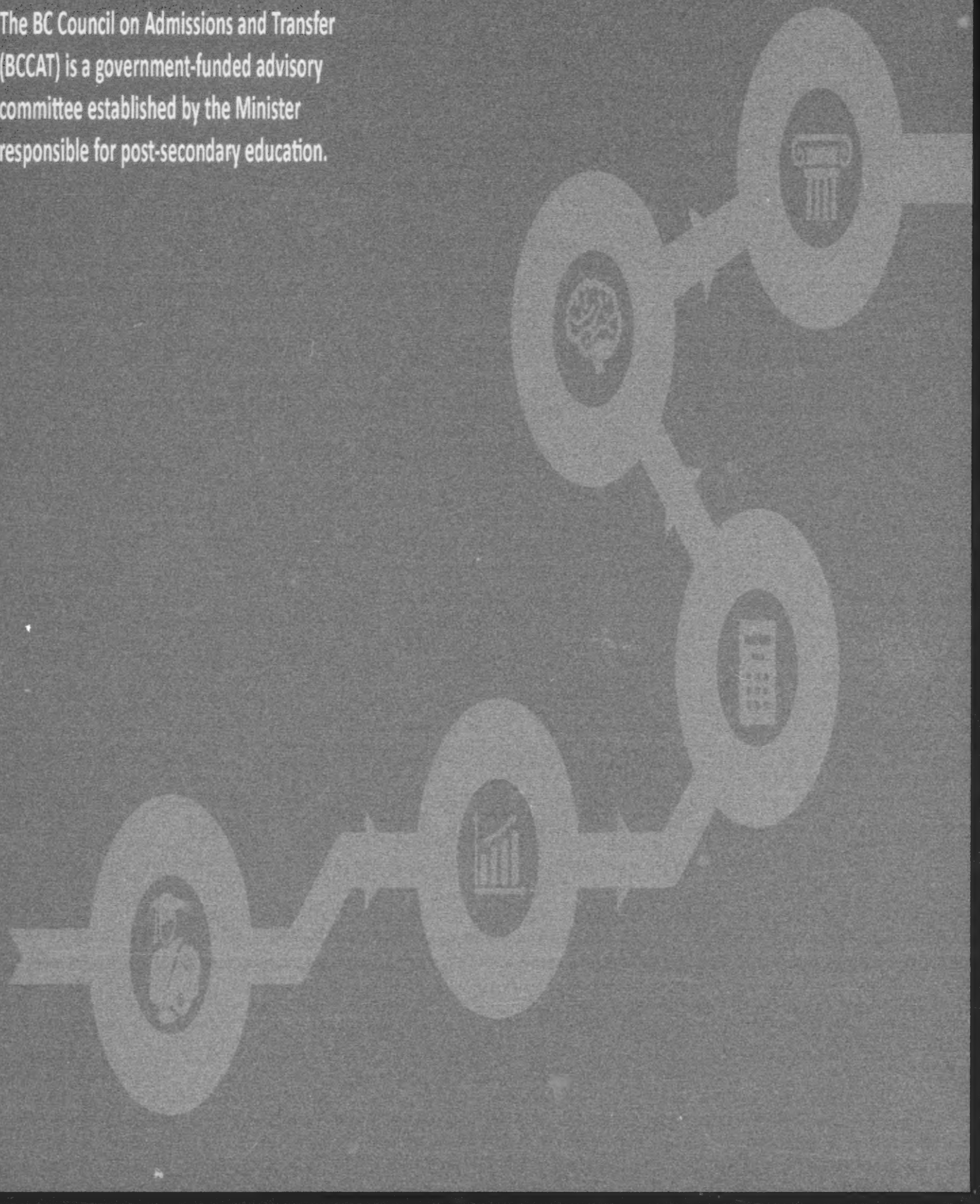
2015-16 BCCAT Annual Review

Supporting Post-Secondary Student Journeys

BCCAT

The BC Council on Admissions and Transfer (BCCAT) is a government-funded advisory committee established by the Minister responsible for post-secondary education.



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INTRODUCTION: Supporting Post-Secondary Student Journeys

Like all of us, post-secondary students face the opportunity to chart their own unique journeys. They have their own stories, circumstances, hopes, and goals.

For some, everything may go according to plan, and their path may be quite straightforward. For others, unforeseen opportunities and challenges may arise, leading them to look for educational routes that accommodate their particular requirements. Some may be looking for pathways that allow them to save money on fees and living expenses or to gain the experience and educational preparation required to enter a specific program. Such students may benefit by starting their education in one community and completing their credential elsewhere.

The BC Transfer System[1] is designed to support students by offering flexible options and accessible and efficient tools and resources to help them along the way, from planning and application through to successful credential completion. BCCAT facilitates the system,[2] supporting student mobility in a wide variety of ways, including:

- **providing web resources for students** to support educational planning, access, and transfer;
- **undertaking research to answer key questions** about student transfer, success, and mobility;
- **supporting 68 discipline-specific articulation committees** and offering Transfer Innovation (TI) grants for projects designed to enhance transfer options for students;
- **overseeing the online process for formalizing transfer agreements** (the Transfer Credit Evaluation System, or TCES);
- **engaging and collaborating with post-secondary partners within and beyond BC** to support and advance student transfer and mobility.

> "BC has an integrated system of colleges and universities, one that is specifically designed to allow for transferability. This means students have more flexibility in BC than anywhere else in the country."
>
> Andrew Arida, Director of Undergraduate Admissions, Enrolment Services, UBC. See vancouversun.com/news/local-news/starting-at-college-a-smart-move-for-b-c-students

[1] A recent article in the Vancouver Sun presents a compelling picture of how students are supported by the flexibility and functionality of the BC Transfer System. See vancouversun.com/news/local-news/starting-at-college-a-smart-move-for-b-c-students

[2] For more information about BCCAT, see p. 21 of this report which provides a number of links. As well, an infographic overview of BCCAT's 2015-16 projects is available at bccat.ca/about/work

Here are a few highlights of developments in 2015-16:

- **Education Planner becomes EducationPlannerBC.ca** – At the request of the Ministry of Advanced Education, BCCAT was tasked with providing functional direction over the integration of ApplyBC and TranscriptsBC services into a new unified education planning and application website.[3]
- **International Student Survey**[4] – publication of findings from a province-wide survey of over 9,200 international students in BC, looking at their experiences, their studies, and their future plans.
- **K-12 to Post-Secondary Transitions**[5] – ongoing facilitation of dialogue related to proposed changes to BC's graduation requirements. BCCAT is represented on the post-secondary advisory committee, and provides feedback and guidance as appropriate.
- **Dual Credit Forum**[6] – a forum for institutional partners focused on how BC post-secondary institutions, schools and school districts are working together to successfully transition secondary students to post-secondary education.
- **Inter-Provincial Transfer Forum 2015**[7] – a ground-breaking event that brought together over 100 delegates from across Canada to open dialogue and initiate planning on working together to enable more seamless inter-provincial transfer and mobility.
- **ARUCC/PCCAT Transcript and Transfer Guide**[8] – the launch of an online transcript and transfer guide designed to serve as a one-stop national resource for registrarial and pathway practitioners and policy developers.

These are just a few examples of the ways in which BCCAT works together with post-secondary partners to support BC post-secondary students at key points throughout their educational journeys. This report presents a comprehensive overview of what has been accomplished this past year in supporting BC's post-secondary students.

[3] See p. 6. Also see bccat.ca/about/epbc

[4] See p. 15. The report (and links to detailed results) is available at bccat.ca/research/iss

[5] See p. 13.

[6] See p. 12. Also see bccat.ca/about/dual

[7] See p. 18. Also see bccat.ca/about/iptf for access to the program, presentations, and a proceedings report which outlines key discussion points and recommendations.

[8] See p. 19 for more information. The guide is available at guide.pccat.arucc.ca/en/

STARTING OUT: From Exploration to Application

BCCAT supports post-secondary students even before they set out on their chosen pathways, by providing accessible web-based planning tools that allow them to explore their options and select the route that best fits their needs and goals.

Education Planner Becomes EducationPlannerBC.ca

Throughout 2015, the Ministry of Advanced Education sought advice from the post-secondary sector on the proposal of a common application system for the province of British Columbia. As a result, the Ministry accepted an advisory committee recommendation that current ApplyBC and TranscriptsBC services be integrated within expanded Education Planner services incorporating information on the entire student journey in a unified education planning and application service website resource: EducationPlannerBC.ca (EPBC).

This initial work is occurring throughout 2016-17 while system discussion on the requirements, planning, and governance continue. To provide expert advice for the initial development of the EPBC service, the separate Education Planner and ApplyBC advisory committees have been replaced by one operationally focussed EPBC advisory committee. This committee also informs the EPBC Steering Committee, which is providing strategic direction and oversight for the overall EPBC initiative. BCCAT staff are participating on both committees and related working groups.

The Ministry has delegated to BCCAT the responsibility of providing functional direction for the work in support of EPBC development and operation, working in conjunction with BC-campus staff. The Ministry has also committed to providing necessary resources for committee and staff support, technology integration, and informational promotion of EPBC.

KEY PRIORITIES FOR 2016-17

1. Launch of EPBC 1 (Spring, 2016): EPBC 1 includes the re-design of the Education Planner website to incorporate planning materials that support the student journey, the merging of the Education Planner and ApplyBC services, and the launch of the province-wide communication and marketing campaign.

2. Redesign and Enhance Application Service (Winter 2016/2017): EPBC 2 will include a re-design of the application user interface, and the development of new features that will provide a more robust suite of application services, including a document upload solution and program-specific customizations.

3. Institutional Engagement (Throughout 2016/2017): Currently 18 out of 25 PSI's use EPBC application technologies exclusively. To encourage full participation by all 25 PSI's within the EPBC full service, engagement, support, and planning for migration for those institutions that are not currently full service will be a priority throughout 2016/2017.

4. Expansion of the Post-Secondary TranscriptsBC Exchange to all public PSIs (Throughout 2016/17): Currently, six PSI's are actively sending and receiving XML transcripts. Development will proceed to make the transcript exchange technology available to all public PSI's, with the goal of adoption as institutional capacity allows. In addition, the Ministry of Education is developing an electronic high school transcript exchange, which will see K12 transcripts distributed through the TranscriptsBC hub. BCCAT will be overseeing technical work as part of this implementation.

"This initial step will enhance the student experience and will provide a critical foundation for the development of a fully integrated COAP (Common Online Application Platform) in the near future."

The Honourable Andrew Wilkinson, Minister of Advanced Education

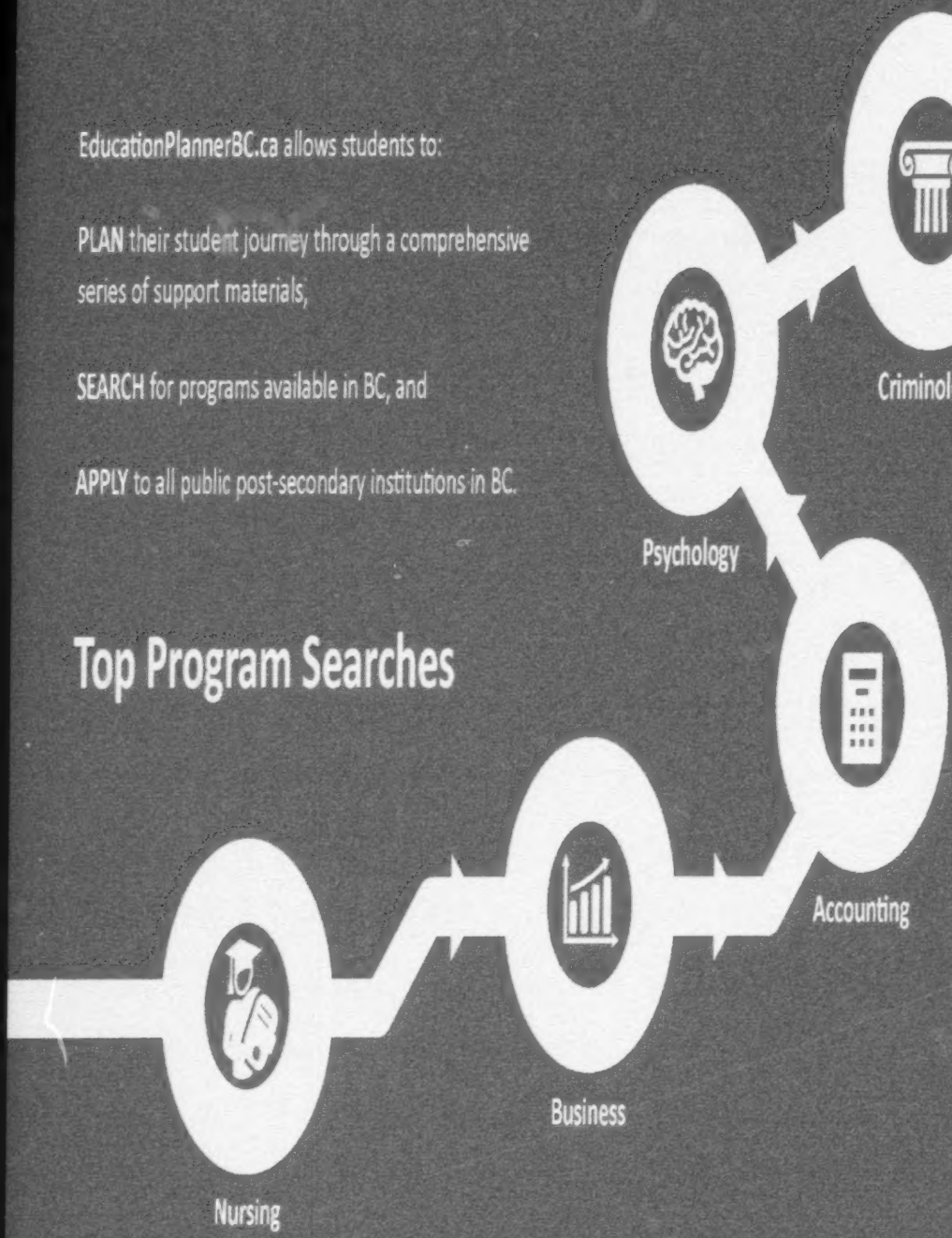
EducationPlannerBC.ca allows students to:

PLAN their student journey through a comprehensive series of support materials,

SEARCH for programs available in BC, and

APPLY to all public post-secondary institutions in BC.

Top Program Searches



"The Council has so many projects always on the go. It's good to know so many individuals are working to make a difference on admissions and transfer processes. We're in good hands... I'm excited about the incorporation of an application service to Education Planner. It will be great to have somewhere you can go, make your decisions easily and apply, all in one place."

Katie Sparrow, Undergraduate Student (Bachelor of Science, Major in Chemical Biology), Thompson Rivers University, & BCCAT Student Representative

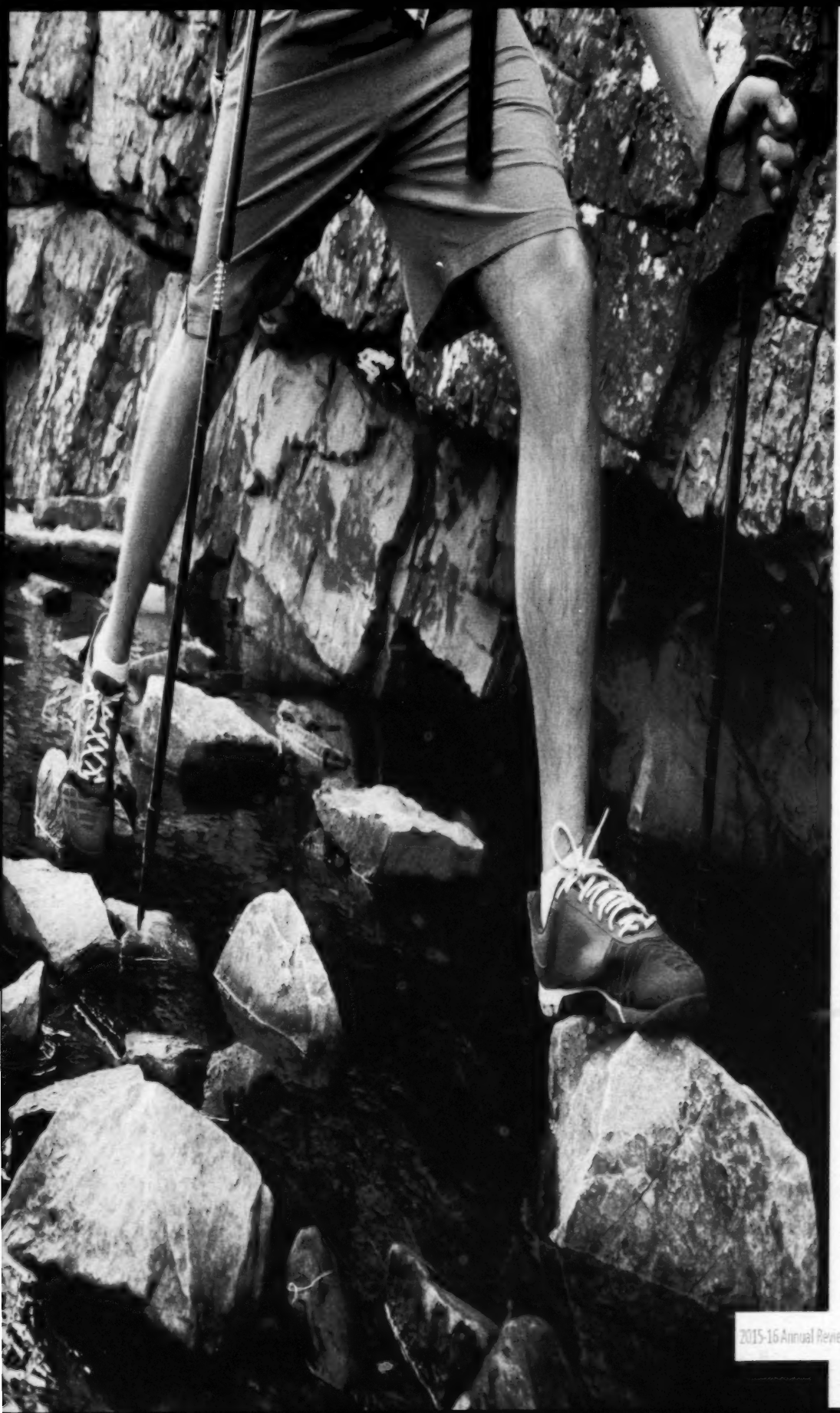
This year,
BCTransferGuide.ca
attracted over
1.2 million
unique visits

BCTransferGuide.ca Delivers Transfer Options

BCTransferGuide.ca continues to deliver accurate and up-to-date transfer information to assist students in mapping their own transfer pathways. It currently lists over 180,000 guaranteed course-to-course agreements, all of which are dynamically updated through the Transfer Credit Evaluation Service (TCES).

The TCES has become a useful model for other Canadian jurisdictions. Currently, Campus Manitoba is developing a transfer database informed by key aspects of BC's TCES.[5] The TCES is an efficient approach to linking institutions and delivering flexible pathway options for students.

[5] See "Sharing Technologies" on p. 18 for details about these developments.



BCTRANSFERGUIDE.CA offers students over

180,000

guaranteed course-to-course agreements

and over

1,100

block transfer agreements

MOVING FORWARD: From Admissions and Transfer to Student Success

As students embark on their post-secondary journeys, BCCAT is here to help. Working together with system partners, BCCAT facilitates admissions and transfer, enabling student mobility into, within and between institutions.

Dual Credit Forum

In April 2016, BCCAT co-hosted a forum entitled *Building Our Dual Credit Future: Strengthening Transitions and Student Success*, together with the Senior Academic Administrators' Forum (SAAF), to discuss how BC post-secondary institutions, schools and school districts are working together to successfully transition secondary students to post-secondary education. The event drew over 100 attendees from 24 post-secondary institutions, 17 school districts, and representatives from Alberta and Manitoba. Delegates heard from the Ministry of Education, and the Industry Training Authority and learned about initiatives around the province. For more information, see bccat.ca/about/dual

K-12 to Post-Secondary Transitions

BCCAT staff continue to support the work of the Student Transitions Project (STP), which provides annual reporting and targeted research on student transitions from K-12 to post-secondary education. Over the past year, STP produced data on transitions into post-secondary, pathways of bachelor's degree completers, and post-secondary mobility.[10]

BCCAT is also represented on a Post-Secondary Advisory Committee which facilitates dialogue between K-12 and post-secondary educators around potential changes in the K-12 curriculum and graduation requirements. An update on provincial curriculum changes, assessment proposals, and new curriculum in career and vocational areas was made by Ministry of Education staff at the Joint Annual Meeting of articulation committee chairs, System Liaison Persons, and Institutional Contact Persons in November.

The BCCAT Admissions Committee produced a report on post-secondary admissions processes that was presented to the Advisory Group on Provincial Assessment in May 2015 and informed their report later that year. Meanwhile, to help inform current discussions in BC, a project is underway exploring the effects of changes in high school graduation requirements on post-secondary education in jurisdictions around the world. Several articulation committees have provided feedback to the Ministry of Education on curriculum revision to grades 10-12 in their respective disciplines.

2015 Joint Annual Meeting

In November 2015, BCCAT hosted the 7th Joint Annual Meeting. This event brings together individuals involved in transfer and articulation from across the BC Transfer System to address current and emerging issues facing transfer and articulation in BC. This year, the event was opened with a greeting from local Coast Salish Elder, Vanessa Campbell, and the Opening Address was given by the Hon. Andrew Wilkinson. The keynote was delivered by Mike Winsemann, Director, Information Technology at BCCAT, on "The Secret of Our Success: Developing Provincial and National Resources". Over 150 participants attended, including a number of contacts from other provincial jurisdictions. Attendees continue to find this event an engaging opportunity to connect, share, and learn.[11]

[10] STP publications are available at www.aved.gov.bc.ca/student_transitions/. Authorized users in the K-12 and post-secondary systems, and in the related Ministries, can access a wider range of data through secure websites. Examples of recent findings are provided on p. 21.

[11] For more information about the 2015 JAM event, see bccat.ca/articulation/jam

Articulation committees help to build trust and understanding, strengthening transfer and articulation across the system.

Articulation Committee Coordination

Articulation committees[12] are the core of the BC Transfer System. Members of these 68 discipline-specific groups meet regularly to address key issues and developments and to build trust and understanding, leading the way to efficient and effective transfer and articulation agreements. BCCAT supports and coordinates articulation committees, providing information and resources that are pertinent to their needs and discussions.

BCCAT also oversees Transfer Innovation (TI)[13] projects carried out by articulation committee-related groups and individuals. TI projects focus on creative approaches to enabling transfer and articulation to enhance transfer opportunities for students. Projects currently in process include a Political Science Flexible Pre-Major Analysis and a review of current Engineering transfer options and report on the feasibility of implementing core competencies for first year.

Research Highlights

BCCAT research aims to answer key questions about admissions, transfer, and student success, to measure the effectiveness of the BC Transfer System, and to help inform institutional policies and processes in support of student mobility. An overview of key research highlights from the past year is provided below.

Elements of an Effective Transfer System – This paper outlines the common and recommended elements of transfer and articulation policy in the US as a reference for evaluating the BC Transfer System. The paper recommends that, given the increasing interest in pan-Canadian transfer and mobility, it may be appropriate to explore other areas where pathways to baccalaureate degrees have been developed outside of Arts and Science. See bccat.ca/pubs/EffectiveTransferSystem.pdf

[12] For more information about the 2015 JAM event, see bccat.ca/articulation/jam

[13] For example, Flexible Pre-Majors, Block Transfer and Descriptive Pathways/Transfer Grids.

Academic Advising in British Columbia – Academic advising plays a key role in supporting student retention and success at post-secondary institutions. This report examines the current state of academic advising in BC, reviews the related literature, offers examples of successful practices, and identifies areas for future research. For links to the full report and executive summary go to bccat.ca/research/projects/advising

Credit for MOOCs – This study looks at the existing literature on the awarding of academic credit for MOOCs and the implications for transfer for post-secondary institutions. Findings from this project indicated that student do not appear to be taking MOOCS for the purpose of attaining and completing higher education credentials. bccat.ca/pubs/CreditforMOOCs.pdf

International Student Survey

The BC International Student Survey[14] was undertaken to learn more about the experiences of international students in the BC post-secondary system. Over 9,200 students completed the survey, resulting in a response rate of twenty-five percent. The report details how students chose to study in BC, their experiences as they arrived and undertook their studies, and their plans following the completion of their program.

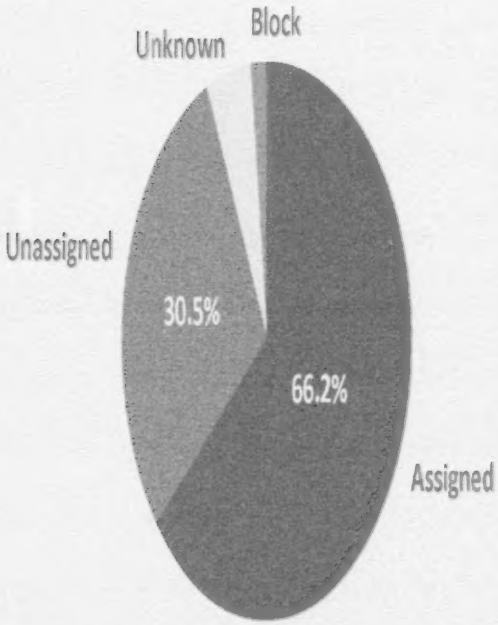
Feedback showed that international students attending participating post-secondary institutions are very satisfied with the quality of education and instruction. These were important factors in their initial decision to study in BC. Approximately two-thirds of respondents indicated they intended to stay in in Canada after the completion of their program and almost sixty percent indicated they planned to stay in BC. The findings will be utilized by the Ministry of Advanced Education and participating institutions to inform ongoing reviews of policy and practice.

"Results from the survey deepened our understanding of what students need and want with regard to their post-secondary education experience. Through the survey, students provided us with important feedback that we are using to make adjustments not only within our institution, but the whole BC post-secondary education sector."

Ajay Patel, Associate Vice-President, International and External Development, Langara College as reported in a Ministry News Release, at https://archive.news.gov.bc.ca/releases/news_releases_2013-2017/2015AVED0077-001968.htm

[14] The survey was funded by the Ministry of Advanced Education, guided by a Steering Committee with representation from public and private post-secondary institutions, and carried out by BC Stats. The report and survey results are available at bccat.ca/research/iss

Transfer Credit for Business Courses, Assessed in 2013-14 Academic Year, by Credit Assignment Type



Source: AVED, Central Data Warehouse, Fall 2015

For a number of years, BCCAT has worked with BC post-secondary institutions and the BC Central Data Warehouse to develop tools for analyzing credit transfer in BC. During the most recent Articulation Committee meetings, data on credit transfer across the province were presented graphically by discipline to various committees. In the example above, about 2/3rds of the Business credits transferred in a single year were granted assigned credit.[1] Receiving credit for a specific course at their receiving institution is highly beneficial to transfer students. Data like these help articulation committees to focus on key transfer pathways and to see the impact of their work.

[1] "Assigned credit" means that students are granted credit for a specific course at their receiving institution.

COMING SOON:

Here's a quick overview of a number of projects that are currently in process or due for completion over the next few months:

- Dual Admissions Agreements – An examination of policies and practices governing dual admissions, looking at student participation, motivations, experiences, performance and progression patterns.
- Dual Credit Student Success – A case study of dual credit students' progression to post-secondary institutions and their eventual academic success.
- Mature Student Success – A study looking at student success indicators in the assessment of mature students for admission to post-secondary programs.
- What is Academic Credit? – An exploration of the use of academic credit and the implications of its use for academic programs and student mobility in BC.
- Experiential Learning - A review of current literature on experiential learning, along with operational definitions and approaches, and successful practices in BC elsewhere.
- Contemporary Issues - These projects are undertaken by researchers affiliated with BC Transfer System member institutions. They help to raise awareness of BCCAT's research in the broader community of higher education policy researchers.
    - A 27-year follow-up of the "Pathways on Life's Way" participants.[15]
    - A case study assessment of Flexible Pre-Majors in public post-secondary institutions.
    - An investigation into practices supporting the persistence of indigenous students at several BC post-secondary institutions.

[15] See bccat.ca/projects/paths for more information regarding this longitudinal student survey project.

BC AND BEYOND: Advancing Student Mobility

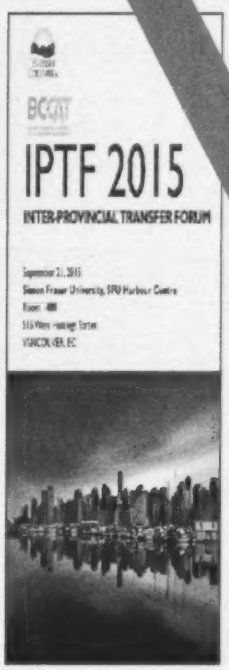
BCCAT works together with other jurisdictional groups and transfer counterparts across the country to support and advance student mobility within and across provincial borders.

2015 Inter-Provincial Transfer Forum

In September 2015, BCCAT hosted an inter-provincial event that brought together over 100 delegates from across Canada to open dialogue on how we might work together to enable pan-Canadian transfer and mobility. There were two key goals for the event:

- Identify desired protocols and operational practices for more efficient and transparent transfer credit recognition processes and decisions between institutions across provincial jurisdictions.
- Identify desired protocols and operational practices to support the public availability of accurate institutional information on inter-provincial transfer credit.

The high level of engagement and constructive discussion led to clear recommendations (e.g. coordination of a pan-Canadian research agenda); these are outlined in a final report.[16]



Sharing Technologies

BCCAT is working together with other jurisdictions to share technologies and business practices supporting provincial transfer credit databases. This year, BCCAT entered into an agreement with Campus Manitoba to share its transfer credit evaluation system as a model for a modernized version of the TCES (being developed by Campus Manitoba). Campus Manitoba will be sharing their updated platform with BCCAT for implementation in fall 2016. Both Alberta and Ontario are also considering adoption at some point in the near future. The collaboration between Campus Manitoba and BCCAT is illustrative of how two organizations can leverage technologies for the benefit of all participating provinces.

The collaboration between Campus Manitoba and BCCAT is illustrative of how two organizations can leverage technologies for the benefit of all participating provinces.

[16] For further information, including a link to the final report, and video recordings, see bccat.ca/about/iptf

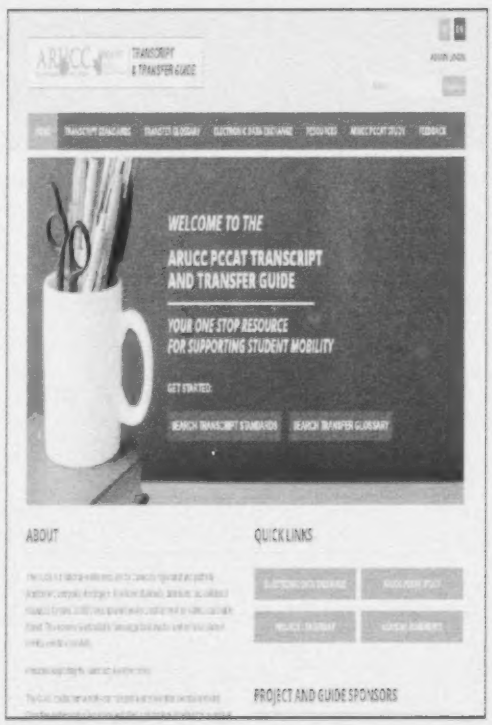
2016 PCCAT Conference

The 2016 PCCAT[17] conference will be held in conjunction with ARUCC[18] this year, on June 22 and 23, 2016 in Vancouver, BC. This year's theme is *"The Case for Collaboration: Approaches and Benefits of Credit Transfer Initiatives Across Diverse Institutions, Sectors, and Jurisdictions"*. The keynote speaker, Willa Black,[19] will be speaking about an educational initiative designed to engage aboriginal students in remote areas of the country. BCCAT provides leadership and support to PCCAT in a number of ways, including assisting with conference planning, participating with research, and helping with strategic planning.[20]

This Guide is a significant development to inform transfer business practices on a pan-Canadian scale.

PCCAT/ARUCC National Transcript and Transfer Guide

This year, the PCCAT/ARUCC National Transcript and Transfer Guide[21] was launched, following a multi-year project involving research and consultation with Canadian post-secondary institutions and organizations. BCCAT staff, along with registrars and representatives of provincial transfer systems from across Canada, provided leadership and support on the project steering committee. This guide was designed to serve as a national, online resource for Canadian registrarial and pathway practitioners and policy developers. This Guide is a significant development to inform transfer business practices on a pan-Canadian scale.



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[17] PCCAT: The Pan-Canadian Consortium on Admissions and Transfer (PCCAT). For more information, including access to registration and the conference program, go to pccatweb.org/pccat-2016/

[18] ARUCC: The Association of Registrars of Universities and Colleges Canada (ARUCC).

[19] Willa Black is Vice-President of Corporate Affairs, Cisco Canada, and recipient of the 2015 Award for Excellence in Aboriginal Relations.

[20] BCCAT is represented on the PCCAT Executive Board.

[21] BCCAT collaborated with PCCAT and ARUCC on the development of this guide and accompanying glossary. For access to both resources, and for information, including information on the partners involved with this project, see guide.pccat.arucc.ca/en/

BCCAT AND THE BC TRANSFER SYSTEM: Building on Success

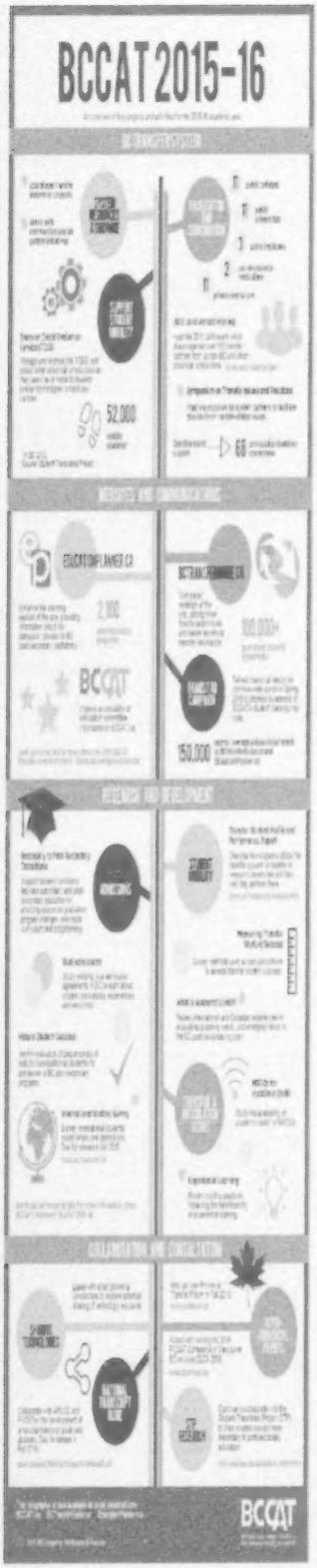
The important work of supporting and advancing student mobility continues. We look forward to building on the successes of the BC Transfer System, thanks to the collaborative contributions of our post-secondary partners.

2015 BCCAT Transfer Awards

The success of the BCCAT Transfer System is due to the commitment of groups and individuals from across the province who work to improve transfer and mobility options for BC students. The BCCAT Transfer Awards celebrate the achievements of BC's "transfer champions" and their stories prompt further innovation. We offer our congratulations to the winners of the 2015 BCCAT Transfer Awards, and we anticipate acknowledging other contributors later this year. For further information see bccat.ca/system/awards

Left to Right: Peter Wylie, Frank Gelin, Carol Pollock, and David Leeming.
Photo Credit: Paola Baca

- **Dr. Peter Wylie**, Associate Professor, Economics, University of British Columbia - Okanagan
  LEADERSHIP AWARD
- **Dr. Carol Pollock**, Professor of Teaching, and Director of First Year Biology, Dept. of Zoology, University of British Columbia - Vancouver
  TRANSFER & ARTICULATION COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD
- **Dr. David Leeming**, Professor Emeritus and Education Coordinator/Liaison for BC and Alberta Colleges and Universities, Pacific Institute for the Mathematical Sciences (PIMS), University of Victoria
  FRANKLIN GELIN LIFETIME ACHIVEMENT AWARD



BCCAT At Work

For more information about the work of BCCAT, including access to this infographic outlining key projects and activities this past year, see bccat.ca/about/work

Further information is available as follows:

Council: bccat.ca/about/council

Committees: bccat.ca/about/committees

BC Transfer System: bccat.ca/system/psec

BCCAT's 2015-16 Research Plan:

bccat.ca/research/plan

A full listing of BCCAT's 2015-16 projects and activities is available at bccat.ca/about/annualreview

BC STUDENT TRANSITIONS: RECENT FINDINGS[22]

50,000

students move between BC public post-secondary institutions annually

45%

of BC Bachelor's degree completers attended more than one BC public post-secondary institution during their studies

[22] These general measures are based on the most recent available data, and have been rounded for the purposes of this publication. Those wishing more detailed information should consult the BC Student Transitions Project website at www.aved.gov.bc.ca/student_transitions

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